

10 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Conversation with Congressman Walter Judd

Congressman Judd stated he was lunching today with Francis Gary Power's father. He had been in telephone contact with the family, and stated that the Powers family understood why CIA couldn't do anything more, but that the members of the family felt they have not had the support they should have from State Department.

Isaac Levine told Cong. Judd that the Communists have called in top Communist lawyers -- 40 or 50 -- from all over the world for this "exhibition". Levine questioned why we could not send over our very best lawyers, someone on the Clarence Darrow level. Mr. Dulles explained that three very able members of the Virginia Bar had tried to obtain visas but were unable to do so, as was one man from Columbia. We have made every effort to get good men over there but the visas will not be issued. DCI stated, in reply to Cong. Judd query, that he had gone into great detail with State on the Lavina Treaty signed in 1933.

Cong. Judd queried whether DCI thought Powers had been brainwashed-- both agreed probably so, and DCI explained Powers' letters had been analyzed in comparison with letters written a long time ago, and the consensus is that he has been brainwashed.

DCI told Cong. Judd that neither the father nor the mother have ever asked to see him at any time - that he would be glad to meet with them if they so desired. General Cabell had seen Mrs. Barbara Powers during DCI's absence.

There was agreement that the Soviet's refusal to grant visas to our lawyers, to allow someone from the Embassy to see Powers, etc., made our position stronger worldwide because of these denials.

DCI told Cong. Judd in confidence that his, DCI's, greatest worry is that the Soviets will give Powers a death sentence, then commute it to a life sentence "this on good behavior - not of the prisoner, but of the United States." Cong. Judd stated, "then we are under blackmail." DCI again asked Cong. Judd to keep this in confidence and said he would like Judd to think this over and give DCI his views.

Mention was made of Laos and it was agreed that the next few months were going to be very, very hard ones all around.